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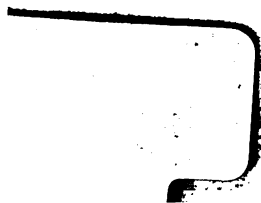
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SPARKS FROM THE



PHILOSOPHER'S STONE











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SPARKS

FROM THE

PHILOSOPHER'S STONE.

Ballantyne Press
BALLANTYNE, HANSON AND CO
EDINBURGH AND LONDON

SPARKS

FROM THE

PHILOSOPHER'S STONE.

BY

JAMES LENDALL BASFORD.

A Proverb tells a long story.



LONDON:

DAVID BOGUE, 3 ST. MARTIN'S PLACE,
TRAFALGAR SQUARE, W.C.

1882.

370. 9. 926.

1. The first part of the document is a list of the names of the persons who have been named in the proceedings.

2.

3.

4.

5.

To
DR. DONALD KENNEDY,
of Boston, Mass.,

*To whom is accorded a most enviable character as a man and citizen,
whose broad philanthropy has contributed so much to
the happiness and welfare of others,
and whose efforts to promote the cause of virtue, truth, and morality
command the admiration and emulation of his fellow-men,
at home and abroad,
as a feeble testimonial of sincere regard,*

This little Volume,
*containing thoughts on the various phases of human life,
is most respectfully inscribed
by his dutiful friend,
THE AUTHOR.*



600079076Z

SPARKS

FROM THE

PHILOSOPHER'S STONE.

of the author's life, extending from early youth to middle age, amidst the many cares and perplexities of a business life. That it may prove of interest to the thoughtful reader is the sincere hope of the author.

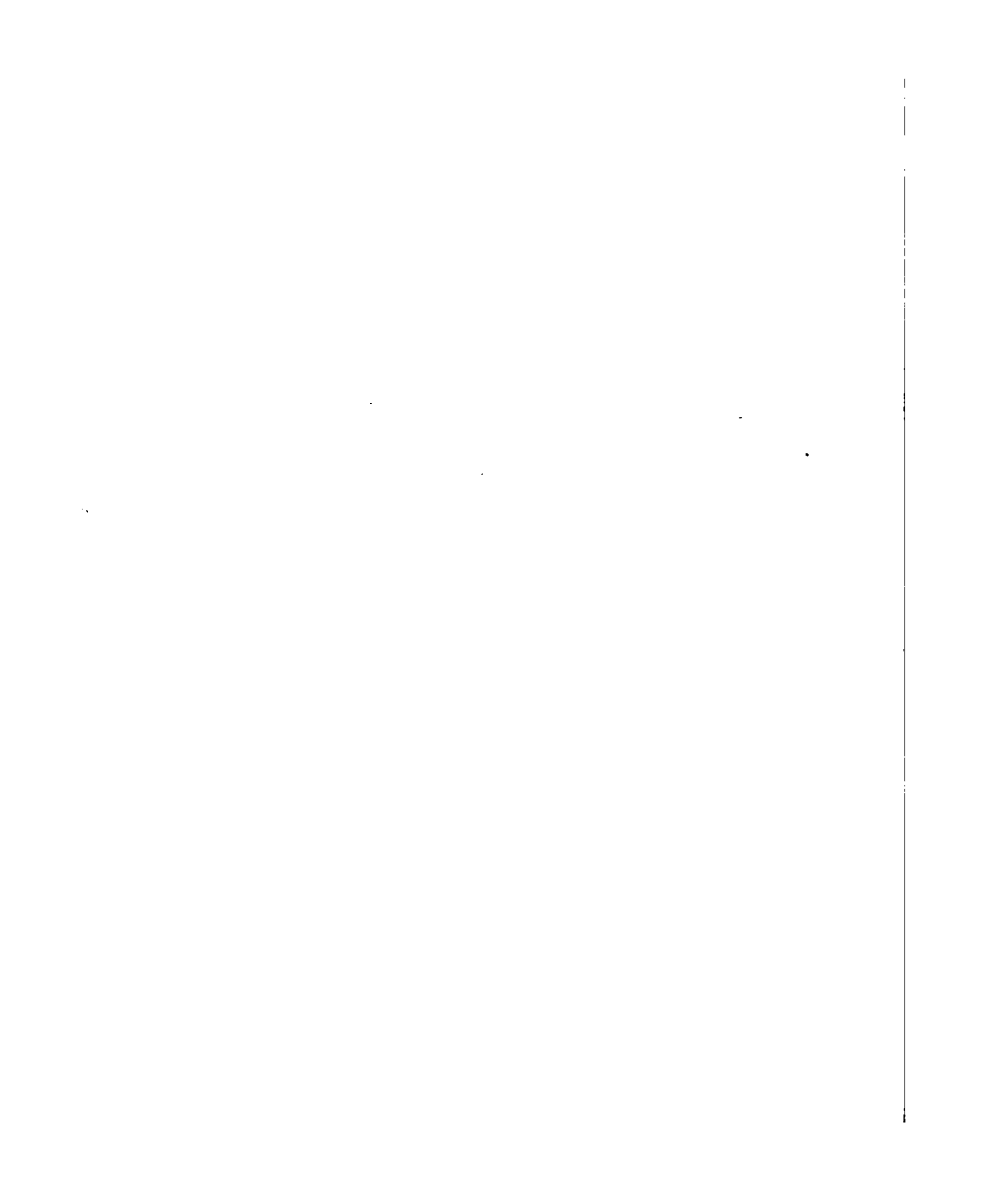
J. L. B.





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Mind and its Mysteries.



LONG cherished superstitions often make persons strong adherents of the religion of their forefathers.



Pride sometimes elevates every ideal conception, and makes the poorest attainments respectable.



Man can appreciate many things—enjoy but few.



Our meditations should be our choicest companions.

Often when the body is imprisoned, the mind enjoys its largest liberty.



Past pleasures *for-gotten*, are often present pleasures *be-gotten*.



The human mind is Nature's keyboard, on which her harmonies and discords are sounded by the touch of invisible fingers.



Some minds are like those auction-rooms which have nothing to offer but second-hand furniture.



Man wisely thinks ten times as often as he wisely acts.



Dreams are foretastes of futurity.



A considerate man's first impression is more reliable than a hasty man's deliberate judgment.

When the mental energies become thoroughly aroused in any special train of reasoning, arguments usually become irresistible.



How abundant the manufacturers, and how numerous the failures, in the commerce of ideas !



Even the smallest faith has more sustaining power, than the strongest reason for the future of the soul.



Refined thoughts are the choicest fruits of a cultivated mind.



He whose tastes lead him to admire the beautiful is half-prepared for heaven.



Beauty's choicest mirror is an admiring eye.



To prostitute the faculties of the human mind to base purposes, is treason against Heaven.

Most so-called good judgment is only good guessing.



The most powerful telescope known to man is the mind's eye.



A well-cultivated mind is always a kindly critic.



Great blessings often disgust unappreciative and discontented minds.



Great ideas in shallow minds are like richly-laden vessels in shoal water.



There is but a step between murderous desperation and the tranquillity of reason.



Many men are like those watches which are incapable of complete regulation because of irreparable defects in the machinery which gives them their *movement*.

Circumstances are the moulds in which characters are run.



Weak minds are content to quaff surface waters, while strong ones seek their draughts from deepest fountains.



Thought is the unconscious and unceasing language of the mind.



The human mind is a world in itself; its faculties being so many principalities, regulated and governed by telegraphic communication from the soul.



Something more than a man's nature is manifested in his actions.



The spiritual world is an overflowing fountain, and human souls are its reservoirs.



The will and the reflective faculties are the centrifugal and centripetal forces of the human mind.

There are thoughts which appear not to have come from the senses, but rather to have been forced through the skull.



Inordinate self-esteem makes a balloon of a man's head: all the rest of him is simply the "*basket*" below.



The knowledge of many minds consists principally of the news of the day and the talk at the last tea-party.



The historian lives in the tomb of the past; the prophet, in the paradise of the future.



Some minds, like some merchants, show more goods in their front windows than they have in all the rest of their store.



There are men who run on ahead of their age, and open the gates of the future.

An unstable mind is like the meteor in the mid-night sky : it shoots through space without orbit or direction, leaving but a momentary reminder of its existence.



I am happiest when I dwell in the attic of my mind, and look through the roof-window of my spiritual nature into the face of Deity.



Some men seem more desirous of making an impression upon a fool than upon a wise man.



Behind near-sighted eyes there is often a far-sighted mind.



The most amiable souls often cherish secret prejudices.



As tall trees of the forest are the first to be smitten by the storm and shattered by the thunderbolt, so men of advanced thought are the first assailed by the tempests of popular indignation.

A large and well-balanced mind, like a huge engine, moves on in its work without apparent friction.



Calm reason never seeks to prevail by unreasonable arguments.



Every brain is a mint in which thoughts are coined; but their true value, as a circulating medium, is stamped on them outside the mint.



The mind of the good changes often—the heart never.



The ocean, in its grandeur, surface, depth, commotions, fogs, sunshine, and shadows, best symbolises the human mind.



Human faculties are Nature's moulds in which ideas are given their form.



When the mind sees most, it appears to see the least.

There are times in human experience when the machinery of thought runs so quietly that only the results indicate its motion.



It often seems as if inspired minds had penned their words of wisdom and beauty with quills plucked from the wings of angels.



Little minds are apt to be impatient of success.



Error is not always the result of a want of education, but often a lack of power to comprehend the truth.



Great decision of character and slowness of action often work as much injury as vacillation and haste.



Small minds often think themselves great—great ones *never*.



Imagination is the soul's happiest retreat.

Thought traverses the universe; active but unobserved, it gathers sand—grains of speculations—with which it paves man's way to his great destiny.



It is in unguarded moments that the features are the tell-tales of the mind.



Great energy makes great opportunities.



Excitement gives strength to some—to others weakness.



Some wise men would do well to exchange a portion of their weighty wisdom for the lighter burden of their neighbours' innocent folly.



Man can no more order his thoughts than he can direct the whirlwind.



Reason ripens not in the torrid zone of passion, or amidst the frosts of bigotry.

Good ideas often take wings and fly beyond our reach, while bad ones will cling to us like barnacles to a vessel.



A sceptic doubts the best authority; an enthusiast is likely to accept the poorest.



A philosophic mind is not haunted by the ghosts of tradition or superstition, neither does it shrink from the most profound contemplation of the future.



The mind of man is often like a house of which he is the landlord; bad tenants are more easily admitted than removed.



Some minds are like sink-pipes; nothing good seems to pass through them without being contaminated.



Persons possessing the greatest curiosity often investigate the least.



Let thy imagination wander among the heavenly bodies ; there thou shalt discern the halo of God's splendour, equalled only by the adoration it inspires.



The average judgment of the many upon most questions important to our happiness, is much more reliable than that of a single man, however learned and intelligent he may be.



Great thinkers move slowly.



Neither height nor depth can measure the possibilities of the human soul.



Earth's tribulations diminish in proportion to the elevation of our souls.



The rudiments of the common law find their way to the minds and understandings of the common people through proverbs and maxims.

The exercise of common sense is the best remedy known for prolonging human life.



Doubts are infantine realities.



Imperfectly expressed sayings are often more pleasing and quotable than many of the more learned type.



Ambition is the raging of large faculties.



Satan becomes a supreme monarch of the mind when seated on the throne of human ambition.



Thoughts are bubbles continually rising and coming to the surface in the fountain of the soul.



A good proverb, like a pinch of snuff, tickles the mind into a sneeze.



Man and his Maker.



THOSE who cannot see God by "the eye of faith" fail to comprehend Him in His works.



Revolving Nature with her countless mysteries moves through shadowy solitudes of space, and throughout all bears the marks of true divinity in none of her sublimities so much as in the single creature, man.



The man who does not live in awe of death, cares not enough for this world to deserve to be in it.

All must inevitably adore the Creator, if they but for a moment consider His Majesty, and reflect that all human knowledge is but a spark from the great eternal flame of Omniscience, and the earth itself but the embodiment of a divine thought.



If Christianity be true, it will ever be the foundation of all good society.



There are many fools among men ; among animals none.



A man of genius who writes great things in a hovel, might fail, with even greater effort, to write them in a palace.



Wishing good, merely, is lukewarm charity ; but doing good is divine.



The human brain is a foundry in which thought is cast from the crude material of nature.

When vegetation most flourishes, man wilts.



A man is never so badly cheated as when he believes too much in himself.



Man in his old age is but an undeveloped germ in the womb of eternity.



A selfish man covets that which he does not need, while a liberal man often bestows that which he needs.



Man beholds God through the soul's telescope, and he seldom remembers that he may appear to God as an object seen from the other end of "the glass."



Evil in the world is but the friction in the running of God's machinery, which He is overcoming more and more as time rolls on ; when He shall have accomplished the last degree, the millennium will dawn.

God's infinitude fills all space, and is more apparent to human intelligence than atmosphere or sunlight.



An atom is God's unit of measurement by which He wrought the universe and now balances the scales of His unerring economy.



God is never a contradiction; man is seldom anything else.



The want of a faculty to be in two places at the same time is man's greatest deficiency.



Man's future is God's secret; by what right do ye seek to know it?



The selfish man looks into the world as he looks into his mirror: only to see himself.



Thoughtlessness is time wasted.

The soul is always full : when evil goes out good comes in.



A full purse makes disagreeable men, and even knaves, tolerable in society.



There are men whose stomachs are the clamorous creditors that sooner or later throw them into bankruptcy.



Trust the Lord for all good gifts ; nor seek to know in advance what He will give you, lest you offend the Giver and lose the gift.



Many a man gets swamped in the mire of his own character.



Every human being is a centre of the universe.



By looking at others we may see the greater part of ourselves.

The grave is the gateway through which we are all borne home: the body by man, the soul by angels.



Man often sees more than he can explain, and as often attempts to point out to others what he himself cannot see.



There are too many who are justly denominated sound reasoners.



Many talk as easily as they breathe, and with quite as little thought.



Those who will not believe the truth are generally contented with falsehood.



Anticipation of the future, though it may be pleasing, destroys hope.



The clock of eternity is wound by the hand of the Almighty.

Self-love often moves the soul to a boundless cupidity.



We are all much like engines: our desires are the steam, our passions the fire, and our reason the engineer.



They who affect to be what they are not, deceive themselves most.



A profound man thinks more easily than he talks; a shallow one talks more easily than he thinks.



Many unwittingly enter into co-partnership with Satan to work out their own destruction.



Every character has spots, visible and invisible; the latter, however, generally cover the greater part of the surface.

When angels' wings are fanning the flame of man's inspiration, and angels' hands are beckoning him to the temple gates of heaven, barking, snarling curs are almost sure to break the spell and obstruct him in his soul's ascension.



Shiftless persons find their chief happiness in complaining.



The best way to determine the right or wrong of a proposed act, is to ask one's self the question :
Will it honour God?



Our best friend is Nature; our greatest admirer, God.



One great proof of immortality is that—man's goodness lives on, though the body die.



Speak after the manner of a whole-soul'd man, if you would that woman hear and give you credence.

God is the crowning feature of the spiritual world as man is that of the physical.



The efforts of mankind in every department of life generally originate and terminate in selfishness.



God, being the source of all good, cannot be the source of evil.



God loves man ; but in proportion as he proves to be unworthy of that love, spiritual blessings designed for him are withholden.



Many persons, like the showman's puppets, appear to act independently of everybody else, when in fact they are simply operated and controlled by wires held in others' hands.



The oracles of Moses speak a more miraculous language to the Israelites, than do monuments, temples, or the everlasting hills.

Fill thy mind with useful knowledge and thou shalt avoid empty words.



Those who promise by the cart-load generally pay by the spadeful.



A great talker is like a cart without an "end-board;" *spilling* something out wherever he goes.



He who talks more than his share of the time always shows his egotism.



Some men consider their wives nobody; when a secret is confided to them, with the injunction to "tell nobody," of course they tell their wives only.



Man looks earthward with a microscopic eye; heavenward with telescopic lenses.



Honest labour dispels melancholy.

Every true man will use his best endeavours to protect a woman, a child, or a friend.



No man is so wise that he can afford to wholly ignore the advice of others.



All persons carry with them some means of happiness.



Human happiness depends mainly upon the improvement of small opportunities.



Satan's strongest hold is upon the man who denies his existence.



Flowers are symbols of the exquisite beauty and loveliness of the Divine character.



The man who destroys his own good name and credit is his own undertaker.

A wise man's folly often exceeds that of the fool.



The love of children inspires an interest in the welfare of all humanity.



The means employed to guard against calamities often prove to be the cause that produces them.



When a man fails to accomplish what he undertakes, let him console himself, if he can, with the thought that others may succeed where he has failed.



We never fail to accomplish what we undertake, if we only undertake to *try*.



When the capacity of a man becomes fully known his attractive power is lessened, to ordinary people.



Never force talent ; let talent force you.

It is within the power of man to discover all mysteries which he is capable of understanding.



Of all the organs of sense, the eye is the most liable to make a person superficial.



If a man possesses great talents, he need not publish them; they will generally publish themselves.



Open ears and sharp eyes are the philosopher's best tutors.



He that idolises any earthly thing so far falls short, of his duty to God.



We cannot think of God without being made better by the thought.



"Gentle truth" will at last cease to be gentle and crush him who rejects her.

Man is so weak, and his Maker so strong, that prayer is simply a dictate of good common sense.



Those who seek goodness will find all the spiritual forces of heaven setting towards them to help them; while the devil will send all his latest improved labour-saving machines to assist those who seek evil.



When man looks up, God looks down.



God prompts all good deeds; they are never accidental.



Do the stars e'en outnumber the sands of the sea?

What part is an hour of eternity?

Is the past quite as long as the future will be?—

The answers must come from the Deity.



Justice, mercy, and love are three sparkling gems in the crown of Jehovah.

Sometimes the faces of the wicked are turned towards heaven for the first time when they are laid in the grave.



Man's way to his highest level is always up-grade.



Often when God speaks loudest, His voice is least heeded.



Woman often receives her greatest injuries from him who has sworn to protect and love her.



The world is but an immense grab-bag, into which the millions are constantly thrusting their hands, with the hope of getting a fortune at each grab, but with the eminently practical but sad result, in most instances, of getting nothing more than an ill-shaped rag-baby.



What the church ordains, the outside world is apt to regard as right.

Man in his might often forgets his weakness.



The wicked generally conform to their deformity.



Unappreciated Greatness often starves, while appreciated Littleness feeds on the fat of the land.



It often seems as if God gave wealth to certain people because they hadn't anything else to speak of.



God gives wealth to some and "brains" to others; but seldom does He give both to one.



When God shall have gained complete mastery over matter, death will be unknown—the perishable become eternal—the earth a part of heaven.



The highest moral achievement is to so order our lives that we *do right without knowing it.*

Sickness is injured Nature's revenge.



All things declare, "What is to be will be."



Let no man claim any nobility of character until
he has risen above the purpose of seeking revenge
upon those who offend him.



Pulpit, Pen, and Platform.



GOOD poem, like a bouquet of choice flowers, is the blending of exquisite colouring and sweet perfume, to the delight of both head and heart.



That is certainly a poor country which one man can ruin.



He is the most popular plagiarist who improves most upon what he steals.



At the point of the pen is the focus of the mind.

Hobby-riders seldom sell their horses; they usually die on their hands, from over-driving.



One who uses many periods is a philosopher; many interrogations, a student; many exclamations, a fanatic.



You may legislate against human nature, but human nature will always get the best of legislation.



An ear for flattery in the pulpit brings scandal into the church.



If a lecture be one-third good sense, the balance may be whatever chance may make it, provided it be not particularly offensive.



A man may speak with his tongue and only be heard around the corner; but he may speak with his pen and be heard around the world.

The most illustrious expounders of the law have often been its most notorious violaters.



Oftentimes the best part of a sermon is the "*text*."



An orator's power is largely drawn from his hearers; be ye therefore "eloquent listeners," if ye would be entertained.



Many a subject is weakened by being too much "handled."



To write a good readable article, is almost as difficult as to make a watch; for every word is a wheel, every thought a lever, and every argument a screw; and its success is generally determined by the character of its workmanship.



Many preachers shine in the pulpit who lose their brilliancy in common conversation.

If the best book by the greatest author should be pruned of that which originated in other minds, it would greatly reduce the expense of publication.



The influence of the platform is much more potent than that of the pen.



Popular oratory is the art of spreading an idea over the greatest possible surface, and when the ideas are all used up, *continuing to spread*.



A silly remark from a great speaker is often published in large type, while wisdom from the humble and unpretentious is crowded into the smallest space.



The *pen-holder* is mightier than the pen.



Lay aside the pen when the thoughts come slowly; a wise miller will stop his mill when the "hopper" fails to feed it.

The writer of a book stays at home while he sends himself abroad.



As language is thought expressed: he who speaks well must think well.



There are some speakers who are brilliant only when under the influence of stimulants; like the moon, they are brightest when they are *full*.



The pen sometimes builds a more enduring monument than can the hammer or chisel.



The pen is always a great power in regulating the irregularities of society.



When orators speak what the people feel, then are they eloquent.



The platform is the "counter" on which the orator displays and sells his goods.

An anonymous pen is a coward's weapon, which stabs in the dark.



Brevities are the golden formations in the quartz of literature.



A man of power exerts more influence over the world by his preaching, than a monarch by his commanding.



The Bible and Religion.



HE Bible is perfectly adapted to the spiritual needs of man—it convinces the sinner and leads him to repentance; and in its profound depths is found the principal sustenance of the Christian's heart.



A true Christian ever realises his own littleness and God's greatness.



Every Christian wears for his principal jewel a thorn plucked from the crown of more than eighteen hundred years ago.

Pray not too often for great favours; for we stand mostly in need of small ones.



When we consider that life is eternal and death but a change of its form—that righteousness is rewarded by an inheritance imperishable—we are induced to look up in our faith and rejoice that we were created.



In the light of the Bible Satan is always visible.



Hope is the mainspring of human action; faith seals our lease of immortality, and charity gives the passport to the soul's inmost and highest happiness.



Resignation is the name of the angel who carries most of our soul's burdens.



When God sits upon His throne in heaven, the suns, moons, and stars of the universe are His brilliant courtiers.

The Bible is a book of holy aphorisms.



Many persons say they are “willing to die for religion,” when, indeed, they are not even willing to *live* for it.



Vain man sits in judgment on Nature’s wisdom, and thinks to determine its merits or assumes to point out its demerits—as much as if he were omniscient.



Divine truth is simple and easily understood, when the mind is not beclouded by sin.



How many, indeed, are the pretenders to righteousness, who make counterfeit coins of their faces and succeed in “passing” them!



Let sinful poison out and healing virtue in, by probing to the core with the “sword of the Spirit” the infectious sores of thy pet sins.

True worship does not consist so much in asking God for blessings, as in thanking Him for those He has already given.



One soul is often the index by which another is directed to its grandest spiritual triumphs.



There is never so much corruption in the Church but there is virtue enough left to render it superior to any other earthly institution.



How many are there who bend the knee to mammon oftener than to God!



True philanthropy is vital Christianity ; and there can be none of the latter without the former, although the great majority of so-called Christians act as if they thought there could.



The thoughts of God are expressed in nature's language.

The souls of good men are illumined by innumerable rays flashed from the eternal flame of the world beyond.



What Christianity has done, is doing, and can do for the world, is the best proof of its reality.



What God requires man to do while in the body can never be done afterwards.



There was no fore-ordination of evil.



So-called Christians often think they have true Christian resignation, when, indeed, they are only making a virtue of necessity.



Doubts are the leaks that sink the ship of Faith.



Trials and tribulations soften the Christian's heart, but harden that of the sinner.

There are those who, like the inhabitants of a volcanic region, sleep with indifference to the things around them, until awakened from their slumbers by the trembling of the earth beneath them.



As the heavenly orbs shine more brightly as they approach the earth, so does the Christian soul as it approaches heaven.



Man fulfils his mission on earth only when Christ truly reigns within him.



True godliness is the rarest of all rarities, and the greatest of all greatness.



None can understand the true location of heaven better than they who appreciate its blessings.



They who unduly venerate men will become spiritually dull in their perception of Deity.

Whatever the poor are obliged to sacrifice to become true heirs of heaven, they certainly are free from the consideration of possessions. Thus it was that Christ uttered to them so many great promises, for they were in a more natural condition to receive the kingdom of God.



Nobody ever pitied Satan.



Satan records more *lies* in one day than there are bricks in London.



Sentiment.



F God is Love, then Love is good,
Since good for God hath ever stood ;
If love then stands for God above,
We clearly prove our right to love.



The eyes of the loving and constant wife are
mirrors which reflect the soul of the true and trust-
ing husband.



Every heart has its dark recesses, its cheerful sunny
parlours, and its attic chambers.

Requited love is blissful state,
No mortals can themselves create :
We know not why to us 'tis given—
Enough : we know it is of Heaven.



True love has no caution in word or deed.



Man often chooses the longest road to happiness.



Old age is sometimes a small blessing.



When fortune smiles on you, neighbours will
imitate both your vices and your virtues.



Mountains of theory often become mole-hills of
fact.



Beautiful thoughts often fly through the mind
like butterflies through the air, and are captured
only by chasing them.

I stood upon an ocean's shore,
And viewed the silent deep;
While 'neath the brightly beaming stars
All nature lay asleep.
As 'lone I paced that pebbly strand,
And thought of those above,
An angel seem'd to whisper me,—
There's nothing true but love.



True love was never dishonest.



Many a pretty face is but the fair exterior of
virtue's desecrated temple.



When in sickness, age, or sorrow,
Through great shadows we must move,
Of all earthly lights the dearest
Shines from hearts of those we love.



Tears are streamlets from the fountain of goodness.

Flowers are the product of nature's millinery.



There are almost as many kinds of love as there are faculties of the human brain; but self-love dominates and overshadows all others.



Pure love allows no room for jealousy.



A firm belief in immortality is the surest anæsthetic for the pains of death.



Next to the service of God is loyalty to a good government.



Love is the superlative degree of friendship.



Love, like paint and putty, generally covers a multitude of defects.



The faults of a loving woman are easily cancelled.

A woman changes her mind quite as often as she does her dress.



A wife should be her husband's best adviser.



Good resolutions are seldom made in anger.



Vanity is like steam from high-pressure engines.



Imaginative love can never cope with two years or three thousand miles.



All hatred begins with anger.



Words from a woman's tongue may be either poisoned missiles shot with Satanic fury from infernal artillery, or darts from Cupid's bow, guided by angelic hands, to the heart of man.



Love subsists on graces only.

A woman's tears and her kisses are her strongest arguments.



Although love may be planted in the lowest places, its foliage and fruits may reach to the skies.



The most ecstatic love is that which is known to the lover only.



Arguments between friends often destroy friendship.



Men who are greatly admired by the female sex, in general often marry inferior wives.



What you love will often harm you more than what you hate.



True love can only exist under proper conditions of adaptation.



The divorced were never truly married.

Though lovers' talk may be light and trivial, it often proves momentous as eternity.



Love is intolerant of procrastination.



Love may "leaf out" in an atmosphere of financial prosperity, but it can never blossom and bear good fruit but in the sunshine of the heart, and then, even, it must be often watered with the dewdrops of charity, if it would live and flourish.



Beauty of face often weakens the character of its possessor, while plainness of countenance often gives strength.



There are few monuments erected to the memory of pretty faces; wherefore, then, should most of us despair of having our last resting-place marked by the monumental pile?



He that is in love desires it to be known.



Human Life.

WEALTH is, after all, but an accident;
ambition, toil, economy, and virtue,
in most instances, fail to acquire
it.



We are sinners by nature, but much more so by
practice.



Life is indeed a pleasant road
To those whom fortune blesses ;
But 'tis a thorny path to those
Whom poverty oppresses.

A great scandal causes more excitement in a gossiping community than a year's war.



As most fish are captured in lowery weather, so does the best experience generally come to us in the darker hours of our lives.



He that adheres exclusively to one pursuit, generally does so because he is capable of nothing else.



No one was ever so well prepared for any great undertaking but that he found too late that much had been left undone.



Fortune is a plum of luck,
Too high for most men to pluck.



Fashion is a fleet-footed monstrosity, which often outruns common decency, and generally completely "distances" a respectable rationality.

If "God helps them who help themselves," who helps those who cannot help themselves?



Cursing the prison walls will not open its doors.



While ambition invariably strives to reach the top, it more often leaves its victim at the bottom.



The city maketh "brains;" the country, "muscles."



Many circumstances in human life foreshadow their results, while others fail to account for themselves either in the beginning or the end.



The best climate is generally found in the land of contentment.



Let thy hands be as the hands of a good watch, through every golden moment marking the worthy progress of the inner life.

Human life is but a schoolday of eternity.



Prejudice is more potent in the world's religion than faith on calm judgment.



Nine men out of ten obsequiously follow the tenth man.



We are far more curious and anxious concerning the mysteries of death than about the revelations of life.



The best fighter is he who fights at the greatest distance from his antagonist.



The plane of life is a frozen sea, on which all make many slips, and finally break through into eternity.



Most men have more scars on their souls than on their bodies.

Golden threads of imagination will always be found woven into the fabric of a human life, and it affords one of the sweetest pastimes to old age to sit down and slowly unravel them, recalling the hours when first they were spun.



One of the primal sins of human nature is to try to get the best end of the bargain.



Human life is oftener illumined by moonshine than by sunshine.



The great majority of the world prefers to attend the exhibition of money rather than that of brains.



Death is the last act on the stage of human life, and the prelude to raising the curtain of eternity.



Our greatest measurement of the infinity of time is as nothing on the dial of eternity.

Sin is a current coin that all men drop into the contribution box of Satan, and it is the only legal tender in hell.



We all see through the eyes of circumstances.



Though a man be worth millions, he can enjoy no more of life's blessings than his necessities require; any accumulation of wealth beyond these partake of theft from God and his fellowman.



Every person has some secret fault which is difficult to detect.



Time is a monarch which oppresses many and blesses few.



Wrinkles are Beauty's death-lines.



The poor receive frowns when generally they deserve smiles.

Many smiles and a swallow-tailed coat is about all that is needed to secure an "entree" to the most fashionable society.



More precious than whole worlds like this, is the possession of him who continually feels that his daily life is ever attended with God's special favour.



When persons, having business with you, offer to feast you, beware of them.



The petty "whys and wherefores" are the balls and chains of life's bondage.



Enthusiasm is often like some rivers whose volume of water may become too small to turn the wheels of its mills, or so large as to overflow its banks, and carry nought but destruction along its pathway.



We charge many of life's mistakes to circumstances, when we ought to charge them to ourselves.

The lines of human progress are radii from the central point of creation, diverging ever, yet to be extended to the outermost circle of God's universe.



Each individual life is a world by itself, suspended within the realm of possibilities; while the soul is ever its centre of gravitation.



If people would exert one half the energy in attempting to better their condition in life that they do in repining over a bad one, much suffering and crime would be avoided.



An industrious but reasonable exercise of brain is more conducive to longevity than is the development of muscle.



Ecstasy is but the tasteless foam crowning the cup of joy in human life; let us beware lest it overflow and soil the white robes of virtue.

Every man may be considered a prophet who lives in advance of his time.



Gold is the colour that predominates throughout the pages of all history.



All last year we were scoring *nothing* (1880); this year we “score *one*” (1881).



Every man who is fearless of death is either a saint or a fool.



Bars of gold are objects of the thief's ambition; bars of iron are his reward.



Life is often held more firmly by a thread than by a cable.



Hope is the spark from which we light immortal fires upon the hearthstones of our earthly existence.

Example is a germ from which may grow a tree of good or evil ; if the former, its branches shall reach to the throne of the Eternal ; if the latter, it shall only darken the shadows of the infernal.



The majority of persons fail to accomplish great things because their success lies only in small ones.



We find more snakes and foxes along life's pathway than lambs or doves.



Incompatible natures clash even when self-interest has done its best to conciliate them.



There is much proud humility and humble pride in the world !



The world records the deeds of mankind in a book which it hides away among the archives of oblivion, to be seen only in the dim light of a flickering, perishing flame.

The poor often have strewn in their pathway flowers of whose fragrance the rich know nothing.



Thy years may be long, and yet thy life may be as an empty vessel.



The strongest friendship cannot live without the little graces.



Most lives are like streams, tributary to great rivers : few indeed are like the rivers themselves.



Life is the great pathway to glory ; keep the eye fixed upon the beacon light of truth, and the soul will surely bear you on to its bright home where glories are eternal.



Life is the alphabet of eternity's language.



Life's greatest dangers are often found in apparently small risks.

We cannot look upon human life as an accident,
while all around us we behold the evidence of such
wondrous design.



Abiding fame is as a great weight, raised only
by the screws of perseverance and the wages of
morality.



Every pulsation in earthly life is but the ticking
of eternity's clock.



The world of prosperity maintains the world of
adversity.



The curse of the unredeemed follows the pawn-
broker's pledges.



The grit of adversity sharpens the edge of the
dullest minds.



Sighing zephyrs and mourning breezes ever chime
their melodies with lamentations of breaking hearts.

The oil of hope makes life's machinery run smoothly.



The ways of Deity may appear slow to our short visions, but they are swift in the eyes of Heaven.



Some lives seem as if they had only been intended as huge jokes.



As a single spark may explode the largest accumulation of gunpowder, so the merest trifle sometimes destroys the friendship of a lifetime.



Friendship is never wrought in art, nor found in science.



Great facts remain to be discovered; they lie hidden at your home, at the shop, above you, around you, yea, at your very feet, therefore be not idle for a moment.

Some men succeed better in their blindness than they would if they had their sight.



A little satisfies the poor, while the rich never cease their longings.



The rich are often little thanked by the poor whom they support.



Count often the probable days of your life, and more seldom will you count your dollars and cents.



An industrious dunce is often more successful in life than his learned neighbour.



Men usually take better care of their boots than of their stomachs.



The sweets of time may become the bitters of eternity.

Old "gossips" are usually young flirts "gone to seed."



The weak-minded are generally "high steppers."



Up to middle age man can seem to assist nature in building his own body; after that time, despite the efforts of the man, nature steadily destroys it.



No man ever understood the true meaning of life, or caught a glimpse of heaven, until repeated misfortunes had dispelled the flattering dream of a selfish imagination, and cured the blindness of his spiritual nature.



Avarice is stronger than hunger; the former has motives, the latter has none.



He who goes through life at a break-neck pace affords the best evidence that he knows little of the road he travels.

Humankind has an eternal thirst for a large portion of the world it cannot live.



It is your nature to live in constant irregularity, regular, not regularly irregular.



Nature's countless mirrors reflect the image of God.



To properly desire a blessing is to deserve it.



One bad character, like a foul odour, infects the whole atmosphere around it.



Some men in their passage through life resemble a frog: they go a little and stop a little—but always by fits and starts, jerks and jumps.



A sleepy man's eyes generally go to bed some time before he does.

Every human life is either a prayer or a blasphemy.



Merited rebuke from an inferior has a double sting.



The foulest breath is sweet to the owner.



Morality.

HE who tells all he knows is a fool; more than he knows, a liar; the good that he knows, a wise man; and the evil that he knows, a knave.

Nature's bombs lie at the door of the "Diviner."

As fog in the physical world is said to clear the complexion, so do dark clouds in the moral world clear the conscience.

Money is an "*open sesame*" to the best society, while intelligence and moral worth stand at the door and vainly knock.

Actions are motives let loose.



Those who were once strong friends can never become equally great enemies.



Sighing winds tell and foretell.



A pitched battle is better than a continual skirmish.



Small tongues gossip and large ears wonder at it.



Strong virtue is sometimes the result of a bad organism; for he who has no inclination to commit sin, shows no virtue in refraining from it.



There is often more wisdom shown in asking a question than in answering one.



Watts' sacred hymns have touched more hearts, and moved more tongues, than the writings of Shakespeare or the preaching of Luther.

Long-kept secrets often lose their flavour.



Bow thy head to the sorrow of others, lest thou become the subject of a greater one.



The dumb beasts make far less blunders than mankind.



No man can be more dependent upon God than he who is rich.



Asking no credit is one of the best evidences of an honest man.



The art of pleasing leads the way through most difficulties.



A clear title to a little is better than a doubtful ownership of much.



Every inch of earth and air contains the fundamental principles of the universe.

It requires a strong constitution to withstand repeated attacks of prosperity.



Some persons are never fully awake; others are never thoroughly asleep.



We often best enjoy that which we least understand.



True goodness ever sings the melodious song of "The Morning Stars."



A man's character can always be read by the comparisons he makes.



Through sympathy another's errors are often endorsed.



Never waste your time and lower your character, as you always will, in attempting to amuse unworthy company.

Ambition imitates; genius originates.



It requires original genius to make a great liar.



Any person can *strike* a blow, but few can handsomely *parry* one.



There are thoughts that often intrude, not as beggars, but as gift-bearers.



Suspicion is the universal detective.



There never was an act committed, however erroneous, that did not have a sympathetic response in *some* heart.



A superficial thinker deals in the news of the day; a deep one in the news of ages.



No man ever did, or can, govern himself.

There is no good enterprise which does not in some manner seek to draw advantage from vice.



Inharmonious instincts and propensities make man a ferocious animal.



The next best thing to the enjoyment of a good time, is the recollection of it.



The fruit which generally gives us most happiness ripens on the tree of our best ideality.



The man who promises knows no more of the future than he to whom the promise is made.



Society employs surface qualities only, while the battle of life must be fought from the depths of the soul.



The fruit of wisdom ripens amidst the foliage of gray hairs.

We pay our highest compliments to a good man by unconsciously following in his footsteps.



In sin and folly there is neither destroying drought nor frost ; every year the crop is abundant.



Better be a pauper *on* the town than a knave in it.



The coffin and the shroud are symbols of the great curse.



The true epitaph of the average hypocrite should be, Given up his agency and gone back to the inferno, where, on account of his knowledge and proficiency in the business of the concern, he is to be taken into the firm of *Satan & Co.*



Seek to mingle with the poor, the weak, and broken-hearted, that ye may not be too great a stranger to them in Paradise.

In youth we often woo and wed an error from
which in after life we try in vain to be divorced.



Asking advice and following none,
Is rejecting the bread, and receiving the stone.



You select the judge and jury of your secret folly
when you trust it to a friend.



He who devotes his time to bad uses, will generally
do the same with his money.



Gold shines the brightest to the wicked.



There is more real greatness of character found in
the attic, than in the parlour.



Stormy days are God's days of renovation, in which
He cleanses the earth and conducts its dirt and filth
into nature's sewers.

Food that passes between smiling lips is easily digested.



Glowing truths are often more deceptive than direct lies.



All theories claim much for themselves, but they hold many disputed titles.



Sickness always brings the soul nearer to God.



Licentiousness is a weed found in almost every man's garden.



Fashion is the name of that famous "sheep" that first goes "over the wall."



Sin is a consuming flame, and angels' warnings are often given in the smoke of its kindling.



Selfishness is a bottomless pit.

Erroneous theories make men arrogant, obnoxious, and conceited.



Honesty and good judgment often form a stronger basis for credit than great wealth.



Nature is a hard mistress when abused, but when properly regarded she is a loving mother.



Persons trust to their feelings for a guide, in proportion as they are ignorant; to their reason, in proportion as they are intelligent.



The prevailing sin throughout the world consists in placing too great value upon wealth.



Money exercises a great power for good when used to promote the best interests of humanity.



Silence is wisdom's sentinel.

Corruption clothed in silks and broadcloths is but a close counterfeit of purity.



Genuine friendship will always subordinate self-will to the welfare of a friend.



Man is the connecting link between dust and Deity.



Hope for nothing that you cannot reasonably expect to get.



Hate is a fire that consumes the altar upon which it burns.



Repaired friendships are easily broken.



If it were possible for the evil in God's universe to get the mastery of the good, the whole fabric of His creation would then become dust, without form or feature.

Overdone gratitude borders upon insult.



He is always a fool who seeks to appear like one.



Music was brought from heaven by the first soul that came to earth.



There are no sounds that can stir the sublime emotions of men's souls like the sighs and whispers of nature.



Modesty is virtue's fortress.



Death robs the rich and relieves the poor.



Society's sins are like new wine : they only require age to make them respectable.



A bad name is a sore that the oil of regret can never heal.

A man in debt is a man in prison.



A liar is more transparent than a truthful man :
he cannot even conceal the secret of his falsehood.



Real happiness is not of temporary enjoyment,
but is so interwoven with the future that it blesses
for ever.



The windows of many men's souls are too dirty to
admit heavenly light.



Our neighbours have no right to be haters ; that
is a privilege reserved exclusively for ourselves.



If you treat a man like a brute, he is justified, of
course, in acting like one toward you.



Only the truly good feel the higher influences of
goodness.

A liar is a poor judge of truth.



A working community is usually a moral one.



There is no good way to do a bad deed.



A well ordered tongue will overcome more opposition than laws or lawyers.



Many future events are controlled by present circumstances.



They who attempt to undermine justice are in danger of being crushed by it.



Cherish those thoughts which, like stars, will shine brightest when the light of prosperity is dimmed.



A false assertion often passes for a wise saying.

That which is properly understood is either liked or disliked.



The highest knowledge attainable is gained through perfection of character.



The glitter of sin
Is Satan's grin.



There are loose screws in the character of some men which invite the immediate application of a large moral screwdriver.



Some persons reserve their best thoughts, and only give utterance to their poorest.



Many men, like so-called falling stars, suddenly lose their brilliancy and fall from the great eminence to which they have attained ; with few or none to deplore their disappearance.

Human happiness depends mainly upon the improvements of small opportunities.



The deeds of good men are their best and most enduring monuments.



Golden coins drop into the pockets of the many,
but golden ideas into the minds of the few.



Miscellaneous.



ET projects make more profitable friends among strangers than in the neighbourhood of their origin.



Genius is like a cat thrown from a chamber window : she is almost sure to light on her feet.



Matter is solidified spirit.



Would-be critics generally have little knowledge and no originality.

Sordid desires are the creatures of indulgence.



Plain persons are often found to be severe critics of those who are *better favoured*.



Search for good in everything, and, when found, speak of it at once to your neighbour, that ye may rejoice together that you have found it.



Jogging and jolting are often quite as good for mental as for physical digestion.



Sin and the serpent always make crooked paths.



There is no danger discovered until the calamity has begun.



The juvenile mind seeks those curiosities of nature which are found in the menagerie of the human passions.

The stars dot out the plans of God.



A nut must be cracked before eating the kernel.



The windows of refined persons are always too *high* to permit *low*-toned thoughts to enter.



Nothing possesses greater magnetism than the simple truth well spoken.



A good mother is the greatest illustration of the wisdom and goodness of God.



Self-praise is no praise.



Don't spend all your time in being "on time."



The moon is a light hung in the vestibule of the firmament, to beckon earth's philosophers to the interior of the solar system.

The tongue is the most active member of the whole animal structure, and the last to cease to do duty.



Mother Nature presents neither a wrinkled face nor tottering form, but constantly renews the bloom of her youth, while time fills up the volumes of her history.



The conjugation of the verb "*love*" is an exercise originally intended for scholars under *forty*. It is seldom that those above that age give it a pleasing intonation.



The world is cursed with roaring and prancing politicians, and blessed all the while with whisperings of the philosophers.



All along life's pathway God has erected "guideboards" directing you to "*Turn to the Right.*"



Many bald heads are as barren inside as out.

“Beginning” and “ending” are the words written upon all nature.



He who robs you of your time steals your greatest treasure.



Things dreaded require double time to accomplish them.



As fish seek the surface of the ocean for food, and man its depths for their mysteries, so does man rise to the realms of the angels for his spiritual food, while the angels descend into the atmosphere of earth, exploring its wonders.



A great many persons groan and grow weary under the burden of their own nothingness.



A moustache, a cigar, a tile-hat, and a slender cane are the *indicia* of a would-be gentleman—not of a real one.

Human nature reflects herself in the mirror of the mind.



The most of what a glutton eats goes to create a desire for more.



Everything has a charm for some creature.



Blundering often brings blessings, where ordinary prudence would have brought misery.



The visits of good spirits are "few and far between;" but those of evil ones are quite too frequent.



The spirits' atmosphere is ethereal.



Startled nerves often affright the soul into serious reflections.



Hints to the thoughtful are often more convincing than elaborate arguments.

Many of our churches keep constantly on hand a large and splendid assortment of india-rubber consciences, "for sale on the instalment plan."



Rhyme is the music of the poetic dance.



Sacrifice is stamped upon every created thing.



The hell of the atheist is eternal ice.



"*Pluck*" is a nickname of one of the gods of fortune.



Calm hope gives real moral courage.



Usury is the landshark and devilfish of commerce.



How often do our thoughts play "*hide-and-seek*" with us in our memory!

He that has many *yes, yes, yeses*, will experience serious difficulties with his *no, no, noes*.



Hypocrites are much like cheap, fashionable jewellery: base metal, "washed" or thinly "plated."



A good child is the parents' best recommendation.



Most of what is said under excitement is regretted when we become ourselves again.



He who sees much in general sees little in particular.



The rich in the world's gymnasium make dumbbells of the poor.



The politician bows and scrapes to the clodhopper and parson alike till after election; he then gives them both the cold shoulder, and seeks to keep more agreeable company.

All should be good judges of the play of human life, since all are actors.



One of the "lost arts" is that of minding one's own business.



Talkative persons are easily moved to anger.



Sluggishness is often taken for contentment.



The condiments more esteemed at table are cheerful thoughts, pleasingly expressed.



All ears readily open to flattery.



Mast-head pennants and evil tongues are moved by every "flaw."



Ecstatic joy lives moments; happiness, hours; anxiety, months; and misery, years.

Circumstantial knots are tied by the hand of fate.



The past is the present, and the present the future,
to the non-progressive mind.



The man who never has money enough to pay his
debts, has too much of something else.



The knot of friendship that Folly ties, the fingers
of wisdom will surely unloose.



Good comparisons are the salt of conversation.



A wicked man will assume more importance than
a good one.



Sin expands human pride, as heat does metals.



He who makes good use of his time is never
discontented.

Sighs and groans are the language of faultfinders.



Too much attention to others' business often directs their attention to yours.



God salted the ocean to preserve the remainder of the physical world, as well as itself.



Great men remain at home, while fools go abroad.



Deep thinkers often lose two good thoughts by coming to the surface to record one.



Many persons are like babbling brooks that carry no mill.



Sleep should generally be governed by the "eight hour law."



To every corner there is always more than one way out.

We all know others far better than we know ourselves.



Endeavour that your fore-thought may be as far-reaching as your after-thought must be.



The greatest trees have been found growing in uncultivated soil.



A bad woman is the masterpiece of Satan.



Events derive their significance from the time of their occurrence.



A fool is the zero of humanity.



Poverty is less frequently a burden than riches are a curse.



Beauty is the result of harmony.

Desiring death is but a mild form of suicide.



The sometimes-missing rounds, in the ladder of fame, cause many persons to refuse to climb it.



A thought that does not command one's own admiration seldom commands that of others.



A good deed, inopportunately performed, often proves productive of evil.



The viperous tongue of slander furnishes one of sin's most deadly poisons.



Shadows are but the ghosts of substance.



Men are created like *upright* angels, but too often behave like *downright* devils.



Reason and Passion are seldom intimate friends.

An ass is made no less an ass by beating.



He who has money in his nature will have it in his pocket.



A cradle and a coffin were each made to sleep in.



There is more hope of a very sick man than a lazy man.



If the wise "take time by the forelock," the foolish must by the tail.



Grumbling is born of conceit.



The elements of evil, like latent fire, dwell in the bone and sinew of all things.



Gold is next to God as a maker, and next to Satan as a destroyer.

I scratch to ease your mind—said the philosopher to the pig.



The wheels of liberty can revolve only on the axle of good government.



Sinners, like children, eat all the sweetmeats and unwholesome fruits they can get; if they, for the moment, but have a sweet taste in their mouths, they will risk all consequences. But the night cometh when they shall cry aloud in their anguish.



The truest liberty is that which governs itself by the most salutary laws.



Weak persons never prove to be *strong* friends.



When a man distrusts himself, it is generally time for others to distrust him.



Common loafers are other persons' time-stealers.

"Old fogies" are behind the times; fanatics, ahead of the times; and a greater part of the remainder of mankind is "*waiting for something to turn up.*"



Happiness knows no "medium of exchange."



Many a man can overcome a difficulty in the path of another, which he could not surmount were it in his own.



A man with a *penny* capital should beware how he goes into a *pound* business.



Truth lies in a straight line, following which a man may always stand erect in the full dignity of his manhood; but falsehood ever has a zigzag, underground course, pursuing which he must bend his judgment, twist his conscience, and warp his manhood, till he ceases to be a man.



Striving to be good is, in itself, goodness.

The road to honour is up-hill; the persevering traveller will *overtake* few, but *meet* many on the way.



The most harmless shots are frequently attended with the loudest explosions.



Shallow persons whistle loud and often.



Mirth shakes the "hopper" in the mill of digestion.



A rogue wishes the world were larger.



Darkness is the thief's best accomplice.




Sincerity is the mother of truth; jesting the handmaid of discord.




Fear is the search-warrant on which the wayward are often arrested.


It is better to be thought *green* than known to be *black*.




We hurry over the road from childhood to maturity, only to learn in after life that its most beautiful scenery was unobserved by us.




A dog that wags his tail at every passer-by, generally has poor teeth, or none at all.




The earth is called an inferior planet, and there are a great many of its inhabitants who would move off from it on that account, if they could.



In anticipation most people find either their heaven or hell.



The messengers of death never take a step backwards.



Self-praise, like a circle, ends where it begins.

Many persons revolve about great centres, while others only turn on small pivots.

Great personal beauty is the devil's target.

The words of charity should be few; her bounties, many.

Politeness is often but the chalice in which time servers are accustomed to offer us the poisons of hypocrisy.

He who takes an accurate account of his moral-stock-in-trade, will find his chief assets to be made up of selfishness, and his principal liability the debt he owes to nature.

Infinite variety is a law of nature, but she always frowns upon *duplicates*.

Common persons are the severest judges and critics of uncommon persons.

Public opinion is the court that decides the most important cases.

Man's animal nature is Satan's playground.

Pure originality can be found in Deity only.

A profoundly thoughtful person may often be sad, but never lonely.

Many of the ideals of to-day will be the realities of to-morrow.

He who is a disturber in his own affairs, will not prove to be a peacemaker in those of his neighbour.

Too much of human life is spent in preparing for events which can never happen.

He who is always ready with an answer seldom gives the best one.

Those who are the most entertaining in company are often those who make no lasting impression upon society or the world.



A man may ignore the rules of society and the dictates of fashion, and not always forfeit his claim to common sense by so doing.



Thoughts, like many persons, are often more valued for their dress and surroundings than for their character.



The mental faculties of many are so beclouded with self-conceit, that they are quite unable to see anybody but themselves and those to whom they toady.



It is true of blighted affections as of blighted flowers : they wither and fade until they pass beyond human recovery.



A proverb tells a long story.

Public opinion is but the mist that arises from the great ocean of thought, and anon descends, it may be, in gentle showers, or in furious storms.

~*~

No monarch is so well obeyed as that whose name is Habit.

~*~

There is no such saying in the books as, "What is to be, *can't* be."

~*~

He who feeds on the faults of others, may well expect to be sick at the stomach.

~*~

The stars are the eyes of heaven, and each twinkle is a wink.

~*~

Astrology is the geology of heaven, and in its many strata are found the beautiful gems of the firmament.

~*~

The planets are way stations on the road to heaven.

A Faro-Bank, a "Grab-bag," a "Ring-cake," a Church-fair "Post Office" and "Fishing Pond," all act and are conducted upon the same principle precisely: that of inducing the weak-minded to indulge false hopes of getting something for nothing, in a *game of chance*.



Vanity often supplies the wings on which Reason takes her flight.



Poverty is often a providential limitation to crime.



Jealousy is a black cat with which the devil scratches the back of a lover.



He that will steal a secret, will steal something else, if he can get a chance.



Wealth is the poor man's ideal and the rich man's god.

If our ancestors could now come and live among us, they would simply laugh at those poor fools who take pride in ignoring the manners and customs of to-day, and clinging to those of long ago.



When a row is begun the devil has won.



The greatest difficulty in attempting to remove a difficulty, is in thinking too much about the difficulty of removing the difficulty.



The first class is the head, the second the body, and the third the limbs and tail of the British Lion.



